

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## Office of Representative

Mark Finchem

### **Arizona House of Representatives**

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Rep. Mark Finchem, (R-Dist. 11, Oro Valley)

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO CARE FOR OUR VETERANS

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (Jan. 14, 2015) – Representative Mark Finchem's first House bill honors the Fisher House Foundation, which provides short term lodging to veterans and their families at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment at a military medical facility. House Concurrent Resolution 2007 recognizes the 25th anniversary of the Foundation; Senator Kelli Ward is acting as the Primary Sponsor in the Senate.

"We all owe a debt of gratitude to those who have stood a post in harm's way," said Rep. Finchem. "And I am grateful for the opportunity to honor an organization that has cared for veterans and their families for more than 25 years."

According to the US Government Accountability Office, veterans frequently indicate that they do not use Veterans Affairs Health Services because they live too far from the nearest Veterans Affairs Hospital or outpatient clinic; lodging costs are a factor in their decision.

"We must also begin to marshal support for building a Fisher House in Tucson to support the Veterans Affairs Hospital there," said Rep. Finchem. "Over the coming months I will work to find the funds needed to make a Tucson Fisher House a reality."

#### **Fisher House Facts**

- More than 25,000 veteran families served in 2014
- 250.000 veteran families served since 1990
- \$282 million in savings to veteran families since 1990
- 5.8 million days of lodging provided since 1990
- 64 Fisher Houses in operation around the country

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